

Foreign Relations Committee on September 9, Secretary Powell declared that "the evidence corroborates the specific intent of the perpetrators to destroy 'a group in whole or in part'." This begs the question: if Darfur, why not Armenia? Did the Ottomans not seek to destroy the Armenians to this same extent?

Although Americans of Armenian origin, many of whom came to this country fleeing persecution and looking to rebuild, make up a relatively small community among the multitudes that comprise our Nation, they have enriched our national life beyond proportion to their numbers, in the arts and sciences, in medicine, in business, and in the daily life of communities across the Nation. I support Americans of Armenian origin in calling for recognition of the genocide committed against their relatives 90 years and just a few generations ago. In recognizing this tragedy, we reinforce our commitment to building a world in which history will not repeat itself.

SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON AND EARTH DAY

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize one of our most prominent Wisconsinites, Gaylord Nelson, the founder of Earth Day—and a man who was a driving force for the way the American people and the world view the environment and environmental conservation.

Gaylord Nelson was truly a pioneer who had the vision of starting a national day to protect and celebrate our environment when it was not politically popular. What started out as an idea in the early 1960s blossomed into a national day of observance with an estimated 20 million demonstrators participating in the first Earth Day in 1970. Today there will be an estimated 500 million people in 167 countries taking part in Earth Day.

All over the country, Americans heard about the dangers of lead in our water and air, pesticides in our drinking water, and chemicals in our soil. An informed public brought pressure on Congress and the President to act. The movement that started that first Earth Day led to the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and Superfund legislation. These are the foundation of our environmental law today, and they would not have been possible without the work and vision of Senator Gaylord Nelson.

Senator Nelson entered public service in 1948, after serving 4 years in the military during World War II. He served as a Wisconsin State senator, Governor, and then as a U.S. Senator for 18 years. As Governor, he was known for conservation efforts and preserving wetlands long before those causes became popular nationally. As a Senator, he built on his environmentalist reputation to further issues including the preservation of the Appa-

lachian Trail corridor and the creation of the national trail system.

Earth Day also reminds us that we need to work internationally. We need to engage developing economies like China, India, and Russia to head off major environmental disasters. We are not on this planet alone, and we can no longer pretend that environmental damage around the globe does not come back to haunt us. Senator Nelson understood that lesson almost 40 years ago, and he has been teaching it to the rest of us ever since.

The ideas of Gaylord Nelson are just as important today as they were 35 years ago. The progress that followed in the wake of the first Earth Day must not be forgotten. As a nation and as neighbors in the world we must continue to demand for higher accountability and higher environmental standards. Today is a reminder for all people to recommit themselves to environmental stewardship and to thank Gaylord Nelson for focusing us on how we impact the environment that sustains us—and the legacy we owe to the generations that follow us.

"GENTLEMAN" JIM JEFFORDS

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to our friend and colleague from Vermont, JIM JEFFORDS, who announced on Wednesday that he will not seek re-election to a fourth term in the Senate in 2006.

If anyone has earned the right to retire from politics, it is JIM JEFFORDS. JIM began his public service in 1956, when he was just 22. He joined the Navy and served on active duty until 1959, when he entered Harvard Law School. He was elected to the Vermont State Senate in 1966, nearly 40 years ago. Two years later, he was elected State attorney general, and he served in that capacity until 1973.

He was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1974. I think that was a testament to the respect and affection that Vermonters have for JIM. As my colleagues may recall, 1974 was a pretty tough year for Republicans to get elected.

JIM served in the House for 14 years, distinguishing himself on the Agriculture Committee and the Education and Labor Committee. He showed his fiercely independent streak in 1981 when he was the lone House Republican to vote against President Reagan's tax cuts that caused budget deficits to explode.

In 1988, JIM was elected to the Senate, replacing another esteemed Vermont Republican, former Senator Robert Stafford. In three terms in the Senate, JIM has chaired the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the Environment and Public Works Committee.

It is customary for Members of Congress to focus on a few issues during their career. JIM is unusual because he has significant accomplishments in so many areas.

Over the course of his 30-year career in Congress, JIM has had an enormous impact on every education and job training bill, including the elementary and secondary education and the higher education reauthorization bills and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA; every farm bill; the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact; and every environmental protection bill, including the landmark 1990 Clean Air Act amendments that established the "cap and trade" program for sulfur dioxide that has done so much to reduce acid rain in our part of the country. JIM has also been one of the staunchest and most effective advocates for the arts, humanities, libraries, and museums. And he has been a tireless champion of the women, infants and children, WIC, nutrition program.

Back home in his beloved Vermont, he is known as "Gentleman Jim." And he is a gentleman, one of the most decent and thoughtful Members ever to have served in the Senate.

Because he is so soft-spoken and moderate, people underestimate him. Or at least they did, until he decided that President Bush and the Republican majorities in Congress were taking our country in the wrong direction.

I know that leaving the Republican Party and becoming an Independent was one of the toughest decisions JIM has ever made. But he believed it was the right thing to do, so he did it, with his characteristic humility and without any rancor.

The Senate will be a poorer place without JIM JEFFORDS' expertise and civility. But as I said a moment ago, if anyone has earned the right to retire, it is JIM JEFFORDS.

I know he wants to get back to Vermont and help his wife Liz battle cancer. Liz lost her sister recently, and their son-in-law will be deployed to Iraq soon. So JIM and Liz and their family are especially in our thoughts and prayers right now.

We will miss JIM JEFFORDS, but history will mark his heroism and his enormous contribution to life in America. For that, we are eternally grateful.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF DARLEEN HORTON

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I speak today in honor of Darleen Horton, a teacher at Chenoweth Elementary in Louisville, KY. Ms. Horton was recently selected by President Bush to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Ms. Horton was chosen based on her passion for her subjects and her dedication to her students.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching identifies outstanding mathematics and science teachers in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Territories and the